

# ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT



MARCH 23, 2025

10 A.M.

**St. Stephen Lutheran Church**

(850) 385-2728, Office

sslc@ststephenlutherantally.com, Email <http://www.ststephenlutherantally.com>

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

Rev. Tom Holdcraft, Pastor

Katharine Gossman, Music Director

Lori Zengel, Office Manager

All Members, Ministers

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**Welcome, Everyone!**

**We are glad to have you with us this morning.** If you need assistance in finding anything, one of our ushers will be glad to help you.

**Restrooms are found** in the fellowship hall and office building to the right as you exit the sanctuary. Proceed up the stairs and through the glass door. Unisex bathrooms are available through the kitchen in the office area. Please do not leave children under 12 unattended.

**“Let the Little Children Come” Matthew 19:14** - In accordance with St. Stephen’s mission “to be a welcoming community . . .” we encourage all ages to worship on Sundays. We also believe that children learn to welcome others by how they have been welcomed. If you are a parent of a young child, know that this community supports your efforts to engage your child in worship and understands that it can be a stressful process. Having children in worship is a joy that we treasure, so please know that we welcome you and your children as they learn to become active members in Christ’s body. A nursery is available if parent or guardian desires. See usher for details.

**Please remember** to turn off your cell phone during the liturgy.

**All the hymns** for the worship service are in the red Evangelical Lutheran Worship book and numbered by hymn, not page.

**For safety** we no longer pass the offering plate. Financial gifts can be placed in the plate by the baptismal font.

**St. Stephen Lutheran Church (ELCA) is a Reconciling in Christ congregation that explicitly welcomes people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions. St. Stephen is equally committed to anti-racism. We welcome people without regard to race, ethnicity, age, family status, economic status, or differing abilities.**

**All are invited to receive the sacrament. Lutherans believe that Jesus Christ is present in, with and under the consecrated bread and wine of Holy Communion. Those not wishing to commune are welcome to the altar to receive a blessing. To indicate this, please cross your arms over your chest. If you are not able to come forward, please inform the ushers and the meal will be brought to you.**

## INTRODUCTION

*The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!*

## PRELUDE

*The assembly stands.*



+ GATHERING +

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C **Amen.**

P Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

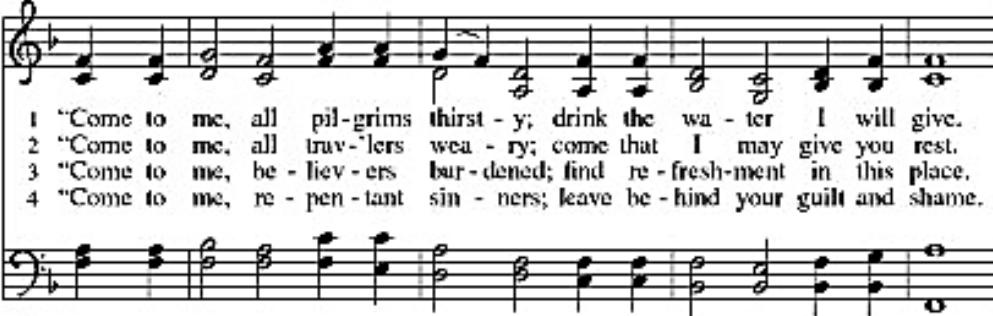
*Silence for reflection.*

P Compassionate One,

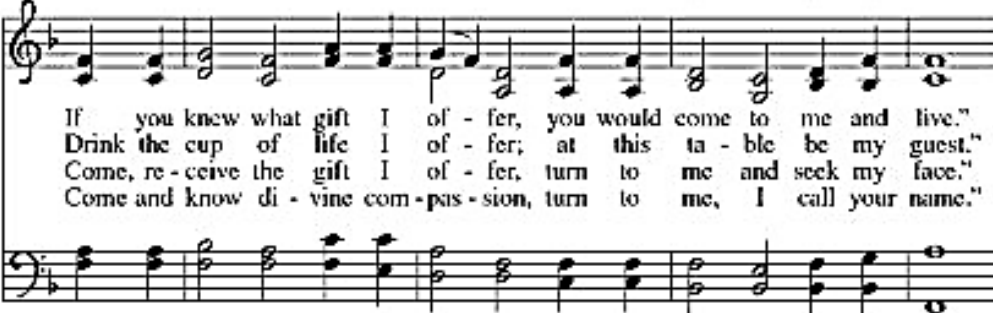
C **you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.**

P Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In ✚ Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever.

C **Amen.**

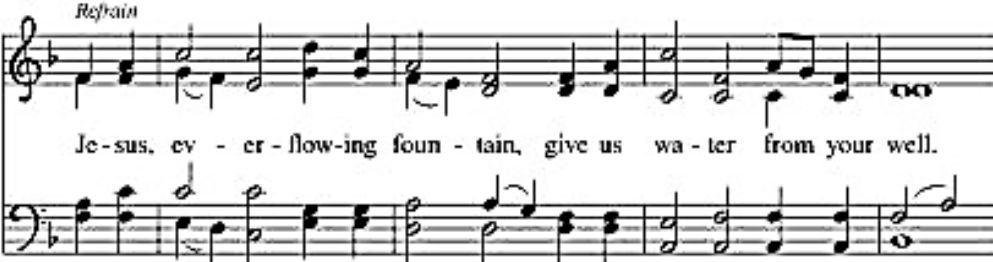


1 "Come to me, all pil-grims thirst - y; drink the wa - ter I will give.  
 2 "Come to me, all trav - lers wea - ry; come that I may give you rest.  
 3 "Come to me, be - liev - ers bur - dened; find re - fresh - ment in this place.  
 4 "Come to me, re - pen - tant sin - ners; leave be - hind your guilt and shame.

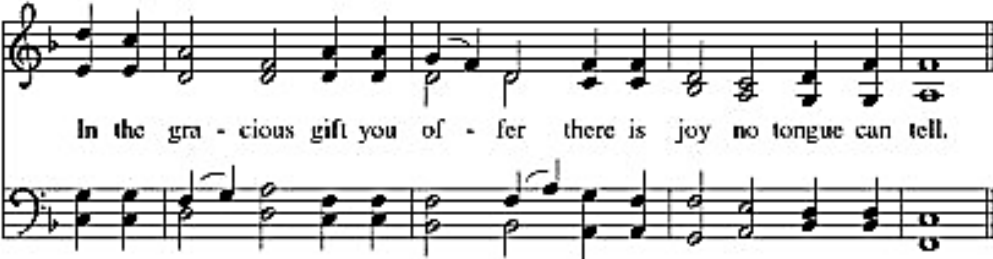


If you knew what gift I of - fer, you would come to me and live."  
 Drink the cup of life I of - fer; at this ta - ble be my guest."  
 Come, re - ceive the gift I of - fer, turn to me and seek my face."  
 Come and know di - vine com - pas - sion, turn to me, I call your name."

*Refrain*



Je - sus, ev - er - flow - ing foun - tain, give us wa - ter from your well.



In the gra - cious gift you of - fer there is joy no tongue can tell.

5 "Come to me, distressed and needy;  
 I would be your trusted friend.  
 Come and seek the gift I offer,  
 come, your open hands extend." *Refrain*

6 "Come to me, abandoned, orphaned;  
 lonely ways no longer roam.  
 Come and take the gift I offer,  
 let me make in you my home." *Refrain*

Text: Delores Dufner, 1980, h. 1039

Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844; arr. *Selwyn J. J. Jones*, 1985

Text © 1992, 1996 Sisters of St. Benedict, 104 Chapel Lane, St. Joseph, MN 56374.

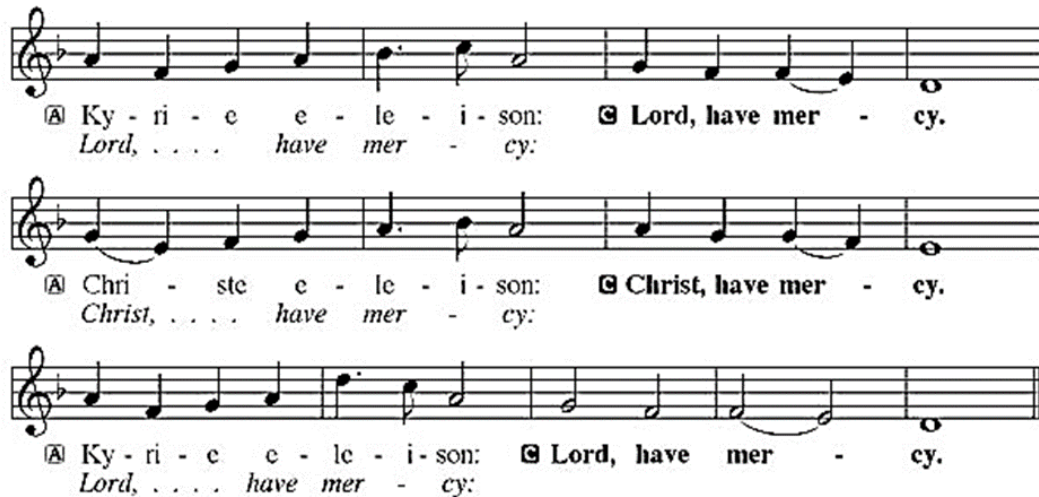
Arr. © 1985 Augsburg Fortress.

## GREETING

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** And also with you.

## KYRIE



**A** Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:    **G** Lord, have mer - cy.  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*

**A** Chri - ste e - le - i - son:    **G** Christ, have mer - cy.  
*Christ, . . . . have mer - cy:*

**A** Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:    **G** Lord, have mer - cy.  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY



**P** Let us pray.

Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*The assembly is seated.*

## CHILDREN'S TIME



+ WORD +

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:1-9

*To those who have experienced long years in exile, the return to their homeland is a celebration of abundant life. God calls them into an everlasting covenant of love. Those who return to God will enjoy new life and forgiveness, because God's ways are not our ways.*

<sup>1</sup> Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. <sup>2</sup> Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. <sup>3</sup> Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. <sup>4</sup> See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. <sup>5</sup> See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

<sup>6</sup> Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; <sup>7</sup> let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. <sup>8</sup> For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. <sup>9</sup> For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

**C**      **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 63:1-8**

*We sing the psalm responsively.*



Leader <sup>1</sup> O God, you are my God; eager- <sup>1</sup> ly I seek you;  
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land  
where there <sup>1</sup> is no water.

**C <sup>2</sup>Therefore I have gazed upon you in your <sup>1</sup> holy place,  
that I might behold your power <sup>1</sup> and your glory.**

L <sup>3</sup>For your steadfast love is better than <sup>1</sup> life itself;  
my lips shall <sup>1</sup> give you praise.

**C <sup>4</sup>So will I bless you as long <sup>1</sup> as I live  
and lift up my hands <sup>1</sup> in your name.**

L <sup>5</sup>My spirit is content, as with the rich- <sup>1</sup> est of foods,  
and my mouth praises you with <sup>1</sup> joyful lips,

**C <sup>6</sup>when I remember you up- <sup>1</sup> on my bed,  
and meditate on you in <sup>1</sup> the night watches.**

L <sup>7</sup>For you have <sup>1</sup> been my helper,  
and under the shadow of your wings I <sup>1</sup> will rejoice.

**C <sup>8</sup>My whole being <sup>1</sup> clings to you;  
your right hand <sup>1</sup> holds me fast.**

*Spoken after the psalm is sung:*

**Amen.**

## **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13**

*Paul uses images from Hebrew Scriptures and prophecy to speak the truth of Jesus Christ: He is our rock, our water, our food, and our drink. Christ is the living sign of God's faithfulness.*

<sup>1</sup>I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup>and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup>and all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup>and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup>Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

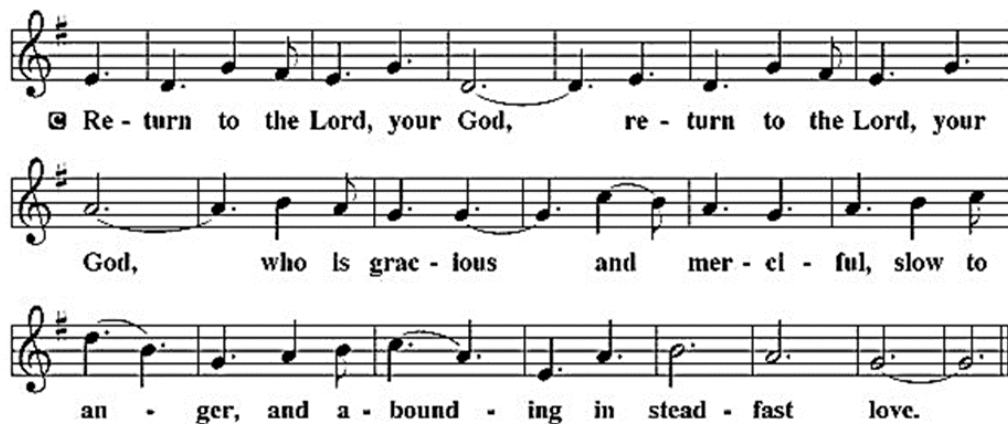
<sup>6</sup> Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. <sup>7</sup> Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.” <sup>8</sup> We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. <sup>9</sup> We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. <sup>10</sup> And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. <sup>11</sup> These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. <sup>12</sup> So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. <sup>13</sup> No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

R The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands.*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, re - turn to the Lord, your  
 God, who is grac - ious and mer - ci - ful, slow to  
 an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

### GOSPEL: Luke 13:1-9

*Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.*



P The holy gospel according to Luke, the thirteenth chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.<sup>2</sup> [Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?”<sup>3</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup> Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem <sup>5</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

<sup>6</sup> Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup> So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ <sup>8</sup> He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup> If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

P The gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**SERMON** *We encounter the living word of God in the preaching.*

*The assembly stands.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**     331     *As the Deer Runs to the River*



- 1 As the deer runs to the riv - er, parched and wea - ry from the chase,
- 2 When your Is - rael crossed the des - ert where no stream or spring was seen,
- 3 "Come and drink," I - sa - iah sum-moned, "all who for God's mer - cy plead!
- 4 Christ, we come from des - ert plac - es, deep - est thirst un - sat - is - fied.



we have come from hurt and hur - ry, thirst - ing for your heal - ing grace.  
Mo - ses struck the rock, and wa - ter flowed for them, re - fresh - ing, clean.  
God's for - give - ness, like a foun-tain, flows to sat - is - fy your need."  
Lead us to the wa - ters flow - ing from the cross on which you died.



Je - sus, source of liv - ing wa - ter, may we drink of you and live!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923

Music: JULION, David Hurd, b. 1950

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**RECEPTION OF CONFIRMAND AND NEW MEMBERS  
BY AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM**

**PRESENTATION**

P Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these people, one with us in the body of Christ, who are today joining the congregation of St. Stephen Lutheran Church by making public affirmation of their baptism.

*A representative of the congregation presents those making affirmation.*

P I present the following siblings, who desire to make public affirmation of their baptism.

*Diane Hines, Simone Schuster, and Sylvia Smith*

P Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for these siblings in Christ, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

**Amen.**

P Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

*Response:*

**I renounce them.**

P Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

*Response:*

**I renounce them.**

P Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

*Response:*

**I renounce them.**

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly.*

P Do you believe in God the Father?

**C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**C I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM**

*The presiding minister addresses those making public affirmation of baptism.*

P You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,  
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,  
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,  
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,  
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

*Each person responds:*

**I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

*The minister addresses the assembly.*

P People of God, do you promise to support these sisters and pray for them in their life in Christ?

**C We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

P Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit:  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord,  
the spirit of joy in your presence,  
both now and forever.

**C Amen.**

P Let us rejoice with these siblings in Christ.

**C We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*Each petition ends: God, in your mercy,*

*Congregational response: receive our prayer.*

## **PEACE**

A The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

*We greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.*

*The assembly is seated.*



+ MEAL +

## **OFFERING**

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*

**ANTHEM**    *“God of Day and God of Darkness”* -Haugen

God of day and God of darkness, now we stand before the night;  
As the shadows stretch and deepen, come and make our darkness bright.  
All creation still is groaning for the dawning of your might,  
When the Sun of peace and justice fills the Earth with radiant light.

Still the nations curse the darkness, still the rich oppress the poor;  
Still the earth is bruised and broken by the ones who still want more.  
Come and wake us from our sleeping, so our hearts cannot ignore,  
all your people lost and broken, all your children at our door.

Show us Christ in one another, make us servants strong and true;  
Give us all your love of justice, so we do what you would do.  
Let us call all people holy, let us pledge our lives anew,  
make us one with all the lowly, let us all be one in you.

You shall be the path that guides us, you the light that in us burns;  
Shining deep within all people, yours the love that we must learn,  
for our hearts shall wander restless ‘til they safe to you return;  
finding you in one another, we shall all your Face discern.

## OFFERING HYMN

*The assembly stands to sing the offering hymn as the collection and the gifts are brought forward.*



☞ Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were  
sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we  
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,  
Lord, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ⓒ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and  
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Holy, Holy, Holy". It consists of five staves of music in a single system, all written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes, with some phrases being repeated. The final staff ends with a double bar line.



*The presiding minister continues to give thanks.*

P In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread,  
and gave thanks; broke it,  
and gave it to his disciples,  
saying: Take and eat;  
this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

C **Amen.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

C **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

*The assembly is seated.*

## DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

*As the ushers direct you, come to the altar using the side aisles and return to your seat via the central aisle. The assisting ministers offer both wine and grape juice from pouring cups; take a communion glass from the tray as you approach the rail. Leave the empty glass on the lower level of the rail. Wheat-free wafers are available- — simply tell the pastor you prefer them.*

## COMMUNION HYMNS

**770** *Give Me Jesus*

**658** *O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts*

*The assembly stands.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**A** Let us pray.

Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

**+ SENDING +**

**BLESSING** *We receive the blessings of the triune God.*

**P** God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, ✝ bless you now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*The assembly stands.*

1 Sent forth by God's bless-ing, our true faith con-fess-ing,  
2 With praise and thanks-giv-ing to God ev-er-liv-ing,

the peo-ple of God from this dwell-ing take leave,  
the tasks of our ev-'ry-day life we will face—

The sup-per is end-ed. Oh, now be ex-tend-ed  
our faith ev-er shar-ing, in love ev-er car-ing,

the fruits of this ser-vice in all who be-lieve,  
em-brac-ing God's chil-dren, the whole hu-man race,

The seed of Christ's teach-ing, re-cep-tive souls  
With your feast you feed us, with your light now

reach-ing, shall blos-som in ac-tion for God and for all.  
lead us; u-nite us as one in this life that we share.

Your grace shall in-cite us, your love shall u-nite us  
Then may all the liv-ing with praise and thanks-giv-ing

to work for your king-dom and an-swer your call.  
give hon-or to Christ and his name that we bear.

## DISMISSAL

A We believe out loud that God's mission for us is:

**C to be an active community that welcomes all people to nurture and share their faith and gifts with everyone, according to God's call.**

A Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

**C Thanks be to God!**

+ + +

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### Calendar for March 23 - 30

March	23	Sun.	9 am	Book study
			9:30 am	Choir practice
			10 am	Worship, Third in Lent
			11:15 am	New member reception in Hingst Hall
	26	Wed.	7 pm	Choir practice
March	30	Sun.	9 am	Book study
			9:30 am	Choir practice
			10 am	Worship, Fourth in Lent

### Next Sunday's Readings, Fourth Sunday in Lent:

[Joshua 5:9-12](#)

[Psalm 32](#)

[2 Corinthians 5:16-21](#)

[Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32](#)



**SERVING EVERY SUNDAY**

Pastor Tom, presiding and preaching

Katharine Gossman, piano

Karl Barton, flute

Denise Bookwalter, announcements

Choir: Karl Barton, Melissa Barton, Mark Canning, Kirsten Ebbesen, Rita Ford, Rudy Hehn, Susan Hehn, Colleen Holdcraft, Pastor Tom Holdcraft, Olivia James, Sandy Ness, Simone Schuster, Dave Suhrweir, Cassandra White

**SERVING TODAY AND ONE WEEK FROM TODAY**

<b>Serving</b>	<b>March 23</b>	<b>March 30</b>
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Jennifer Dritt	Rob Schiffer
<b>Cup Minister</b>	Susan Warren	Susan Warren
<b>Cantor</b>	Susan Hehn	Cassandra White
<b>Lector</b>	Karen Olson	Jonas Holdcraft
<b>Acolyte</b>	Ceilia Greeley or Graham Reece or Bastian Stover	
<b>Tech Team</b>	Colleen Holdcraft Jonas Holdcraft	Audrey Post Cindy Suhrweir
<b>Ushers</b>		
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Rita Ford Anita Sawh	Billie Reardon
<b>Counters</b>	Billie Reardon Lorraine Sundberg	Rob Schiffer Susan Warren

## PRAYER REQUESTS

***New concerns:*** Healing for Sue Canning, post-surgery; Family of Donna Schiffer as they grieve the passing of Amy Blount (Donna's sister); Margarete Deckert (mother of Caroline Collins), ongoing prayers for strength as she is recovering from illness; Donna Dickson Miller (friend of Audrey Post), facing health challenges; Gladys Kane for continued healing.

***Prayer of thanks:*** Rob and Donna Schiffer give prayers of thanks to their new grandson, Caleb Gregory Schiffer.

***For the sick:*** Sallie Robinson (wife of Erik Robinson); Theresa Martin (friend of Cheryl Stuart); Sarah (friend of Cassandra White); Laura McDuffie (sister of Rob Schiffer).

***In treatment for cancer:*** Ann Hingst, Ruth Hartung; Scott Simmons (son of Sharon Simmons); Gordon Fleischer; Stephanie Barber; Jim Saxman (uncle of Rob Schiffer); Jenny (niece of Laura Sullivan & Colin Hackley); Rosalinda Wright; James Sablan (brother of Donna Schiffer); Craig Timm (friend of Cheryl & Steve); Gil Johnson (friend of Judi Duffy); Amanda George (daughter-in-law of Rob Schiffer); David McManus (friend of Audrey Post); Shannon Miller (friend of Barb O'Donnell); Becky Graves (friend of Ridy Hofer); Timothy Stewart (son of Pepper Stewart).

***Health and protection:*** For all affected by the coronavirus – especially those experiencing mental-health difficulties from isolation, those struggling to recover from the disease, those on the front lines fighting, researching and treating the disease (doctors, nurses, medical personnel, EMT's), the millions of unemployed people, etc.; for the unaccompanied children entering the U.S., including those “unaccounted for.”

***For prisoners:*** All those on Death Row.

***Other concerns:*** For Karen Olson; Kevin Robinson (son of Erik Robinson), in need of encouragement; Isaac (son of Terri Schmitt), for physical and emotional healing; Steve Michael (cousin of Rob Schiffer), in rehab after a serious accident.

***Church concerns:*** St. Stephen's Church Council; the Florida-Bahamas Synod Council; all congregations searching for ways to stay connected and proclaim the Good News; Reconciling Works; Grace Lutheran Church; Bishop Pedro Suarez; Our Savior Lutheran Church in Freeport, Bahamas; the ELCA Advocacy offices and ministry; St. Paul Lutheran Church, Pensacola.

***World concerns:*** For all people suffering and/or recovering from hurricanes; migrants and asylum seekers; civil rights for people around the world; a ceasefire in Ethiopia and in Ukraine; peace in Gaza and the Middle East.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**FLOWER CHART FOR 2025:** Do you have an anniversary, birthday or special memory you would like to honor? Celebrate the occasion by sponsoring the flowers for our service by signing up for the 2025 Flower Chart located in the narthex. The cost is \$40, and you can place it in the offering plate.

**WEEKLY NEWSLETTER:** Want to read a sermon you missed? Visit <https://ststephenlutherantally.com/newsletters>. Want to read the latest newsletters? Go to <https://ststephenlutherantally.com/newsletters>. Want to browse a collection of St. Stephen songs? They're at <https://ststephenlutherantally.com/newsletters>.